

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – SALIENT EVENTS

Week Ending October 12, 2012

Court Hears Challenges to Bay TMDL - On October 4, lawyers for American Farm Bureau (AFB) argued their case against the Chesapeake Bay TMDL in Federal District Court in Harrisburg. AFB said that EPA had overstepped its authority in establishing the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, that only states had the authority to establish TMDLs and that the Bay TMDL was rushed into place despite inadequate information.

Arguing on behalf of EPA, the U.S Department of Justice argued that the Bay TMDL was over two years in the making, involved extensive input from all of the restoration partners and represents the culmination of 30 years of Bay restoration efforts. In addition, the U.S. reiterated that the Clean Water Act authorizes establishing TMDLs as detailed roadmaps to restoration of impaired waterways such as the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Articles appeared in the Baltimore Sun and Capitol Gazette. (Terri White, 814-5523; David Sternberg, 814-5548)

EPA Providing \$3 Million for Research Supporting Philadelphia's Stormwater Pollution Control Efforts - EPA is providing up to \$3 million in research grants for projects that will study the benefits of green techniques in controlling stormwater pollution in Philadelphia. The funds will help advance the city's *Green City, Clean Waters* plan. EPA's "Science to Achieve Results (STAR)" program will fund major research projects focusing on key aspects of green infrastructure in a 40,500-acre area of the city experiencing frequent sewer system overflows. Research projects of up to \$1 million each will examine the performance and effectiveness of green stormwater infrastructure in Philadelphia. Stories appeared in several water industry websites and blogs as well as Greenwire. (David Sternberg, 814-5548)

Associated Press and Other Media Call for Information on Alleged Wetlands Violations at a West Virginia Golf Club - The Pikewood National Golf Club, located near Morgantown is owned by a U.S. Senate candidate in West Virginia, who during a debate said that the EPA and Army Corps were conducting an investigation at his golf club property. His statements prompted the Associated Press and ultimately the Morgantown Dominion Post and Charleston Gazette to contact the region's press office for information. A 2010 administrative order was released to the media without additional comment. The AP story, which reported on the alleged Clean Water Act violations and the Senate candidate's regard for the EPA, was picked up by news outlets including the Huffington Post. (Donna Heron, 814-5113; Terri White, 814-5523)

Sierra Club Report on Baltimore Power Plants Stirs Media Interest - The Baltimore Sun and Maryland Gazette showed interest this week in a new report issued by the Sierra Club that contends two power plants in the Baltimore area - C.P. Crane in Baltimore County, and H.A. Wager in Anne Arundel County - are releasing four times as much potentially harmful sulfur dioxide as the EPA deems safe. Sun Reporter Tim Wheeler wrote a blog and article about the study on Wednesday, and reporter Tim Prudente from the Maryland Gazette contacted the

Region 3 press office looking for a comment. He was told that the region was not able to comment because we had not yet reviewed the report. (Roy Seneca, 814-5567)

Questions about Dimock Data Accuracy in the News - Last week, for the first time in a while, stories about Dimock, Pa. were in the news. The stories discussed the water quality data. Stories ran in the Scranton Times Review, and Bloomberg News. We were also contacted by Energy Wire seeking the source of the Scranton Times Review articles. The EPA info was already on the web. (Bonnie Smith, 814-5543; David Sternberg, 814-5548)

PRESS RELEASES

- Oct. 9** Cleanup at North Penn Area 2 Superfund Site Eliminates Risks; Provides Long-Term Groundwater Protection (Smith)
- Oct. 10** EPA Providing \$3 Million to Advance Green Solutions for Reducing Philadelphia Stormwater Pollution (Sternberg)
- Oct. 11** Richmond Company Settles Underground Storage Tank Violations (Heron)